

Request for City Council for the City of Ingleside, Texas

Subject: *Use of Funds for a trip to China by Mayor, City Manager, and JJ Johnston*

Submitted By: *Jim Gray
City Manager*

For The Agenda Of: *March 10, 2015*

Attachments: *Estimated cost and overview*

Summary Statement: *As per previous discussions with City Council, Econogine, LLC owner, JJ Johnston has been working with various industrial developers about Ingleside. And as per the direction provided by Council on February 10, 2015 some of those potential developers are from foreign nations. Since the February 24, 2015 Council Meeting that Council spoke with Mr. Johnston in Executive Session, he has had additional conversations with developers and is now ready to plan a trip to China to meet with potential developers. Attached is the projected expense for the Mayor, City Manager, and JJ Johnston to travel to China for meetings between June 16-24, 2015 to be approximately \$20,000.00.*

Recommended Action: *Staff recommends authorizing the use of Council Contingency Funds in the amount not to exceed \$25,000.00 for the June 16-24, 2015 trip to China.*

Fund Category	Balance Available	Request	Balance After Funding	Account Number
General Fund Contingency Reserve	\$188,350.00	\$25,000.00	\$163,350.00	10-500-599

INGLESIDE OFFICIALS TRIP TO CHINA-Proposed for 2015

DATES: Earliest Possible Travel Dates are June 16-June 24, 2015. The following estimates should be considered as preliminary, as John La Rue will present different flight, date and hotel options.

MISSION:

To meet with new business and industry prospects and promote the City of Ingleside as an ideal location for inbound investment.

INTENDED OUTCOMES:

To attract new business and industry to Ingleside that result in major new capital investment and high-paying job opportunities for Ingleside residents.

PROPOSED APPROACH:

Mayor Pete Perkins to lead a delegation to include the City Manager of Ingleside, and the CEO of ECONOGINE, LLC and possibly two/three other officials to meet with officials in Beijing and Tianjin, P.R.C., and Taipei, Taiwan.

PROJECTED EXPENSE:

This depends on the time of year, the duration and mode of travel & transfers, hotel and food service accommodations and other trip related expenses, such as visas, official meeting expenses and related tours. Below are estimated MINIMUM expenses, are subject to change, and assume all flights on Air China. American does not have direct service to China and United will be \$6,000 for Business Class.

Estimated expense for Mayor Perkins, Mr. Gray and Mr. Johnston are approximately \$19,772.

Air Fare (Business Class) from CC-China-Taiwan-China-CC is \$4,230.70/per person x three=\$12,692.10

Hotel rooms will be approximately \$200 night/per person x three people x six nights=\$3,600

Meals \$80/day x three people x seven days=\$1,680

Ground transfers \$ 500.00

Meeting/touring/Official Gift expenses \$ 800.00

Visa Expenses \$ 500.00

NEXT STEPS:

Present trip proposal to the Ingleside City Council on March 10th. Assuming the trip and overall budget is approved, ECONOGINE, LLC will work with Mr. Gray to create a detailed plan for the trip.